



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 300

February Session, 2008

House Bill No. 5616

House of Representatives, March 31, 2008

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. VILLANO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING A MUNICIPAL PILOT PROJECT WITH
RESPECT TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) For the fiscal years ending June 30,
2 2009, and June 30, 2010, the Commissioner of Social Services shall
3 permit the towns of Hamden, New Haven, East Haven, West Haven
4 and North Haven to administer, on a pilot program basis, the energy
5 assistance programs funded by the Department of Social Services that
6 were administered for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, by the
7 Community Action Agency of New Haven. The commissioner shall
8 permit said towns to perform all functions previously performed by
9 the Community Action Agency of New Haven with respect to the
10 administration of such programs, including, but not limited to,
11 acceptance of applications, certification of applications, transmission of
12 applications to the department, authorization of fuel deliveries,
13 performance of case management services, outreach activities and
14 payment of vendors participating in such programs. The

15 Commissioner of Social Services, after consultation with officials of
16 said towns and the Community Action Agency of New Haven, may
17 elect to allow said community action agency to retain certain functions
18 with respect to the administration of such energy assistance programs
19 if the commissioner determines that the retention of such functions by
20 the community action agency will promote the administrative
21 efficiency of the programs. All provisions of the regulations of
22 Connecticut state agencies concerning energy assistance programs
23 administered by the Department of Social Services shall remain in full
24 force and effect with respect to the pilot program. Not later than April
25 1, 2010, the Commissioner of Social Services, after consultation with
26 officials from said towns, shall recommend to the General Assembly
27 whether the towns should continue to administer such energy
28 assistance programs beyond the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
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HS *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Department of Social Services	GF - Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
North Haven; New Haven; Hamden; East Haven; West Haven	Cost	Potential	Potential

Explanation

This bill requires the Department of Social Services to allow the towns of New Haven, Hamden, West Haven, East Haven and North Haven to administer the energy assistance programs previously administered by the Community Action Agency of New Haven (CAANH). This would be on a pilot basis for the fiscal years FY09 and FY10.

Should these towns choose to administer this program, DSS would incur a minimal cost related to the administration of four additional contracts.

DSS currently pays CAANH an annual fee of approximately \$610,000 to administer the energy assistance program in the New Haven area. It is assumed that this fee would remain the same, but would be redirected to the municipalities. Therefore there is no change in the program cost for DSS.

The current fee may not cover the cost of administering the program for municipalities, as it is likely that the municipal employees would have higher salaries than would the employees of the non-profit

CAANH. The extent of this additional cost to the municipalities is not known. Additionally, the municipalities would be required to verify the eligibility of each household member as a citizen or non-citizen. CAANH, as a charitable non-profit, is currently exempt from this verification process. It is not known what additional administrative cost the municipalities would incur as a result of this verification process.

The Out Years

As this is a two year pilot program, there is no fiscal impact beyond FY10.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5616**

AN ACT CONCERNING A MUNICIPAL PILOT PROJECT WITH RESPECT TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. AN ACT CONCERNING A MUNICIPAL PILOT PROJECT WITH RESPECT TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 4 (03/11/2008)